

STAPLER APPARATUS TO STAPLE STACKS OF PAPER WITH DIFFERENT THICKNESSES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a stapler, and more particularly to a stapler that has an apparatus to staple stacks of paper with different thicknesses without changing staples in the stapler.

2. Description of Related Art

Staplers use staples that are typically U-shaped and have two pointed legs to fasten pieces of paper together. The pointed legs of a staple are forced through the pieces of the paper, extend out of the pieces of paper and are bent to hold the pieces of paper together.

A common problem of most staplers is having correct size staples to staple a stack of paper together. A heavy-duty stapler uses staples with long legs that are only suitable for stapling a thick stack of paper together. Furthermore, the staples in a heavy-duty stapler cannot be used effectively to staple a thin stack of paper together, because the pointed legs of the staples for the heavy-duty stapler are so long that they wrap around and protrude from the top surface of the stack. The protruding legs constitute a hazard to a person handling the stapled stacks. If the pointed legs of the staple are shorter than the thickness of the stack of paper, the staple will not penetrate the stack and hold the sheets together.

Therefore, different sizes of staplers must be used to staple stacks of paper with different thicknesses. Before stapling a stack of paper, a person should be aware of the size of staples in the stapler. Therefore, a stand-alone

1 stapler that uses a specific size of staples only meets a small range of stapling
2 needs. Furthermore, having to have many stand-alone staplers to staple stacks of
3 paper with different thicknesses is not economical.

4 To overcome the shortcomings, the present invention provides an
5 apparatus for a stapler to mitigate or obviate the aforementioned problems.

6 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

7 The main objective of the invention is to provide an apparatus for a
8 stapler so that the stapler can staple stacks of paper with different thicknesses
9 without changing staples in the stapler.

10 The apparatus in accordance with the present invention is installed in a
11 conventional stapler so the stapler can staple stacks of paper with different
12 thicknesses without having to change staples or components in the stapler. The
13 apparatus cuts legs of a staple to a proper length after the staple has been driven
14 completely into a stack of paper and bends the protruding ends to bind the stack
15 of paper together. The apparatus performs these operations with a cutter, a
16 bending template, and a cutting anvil in conjunction with a sliding bracket and a
17 cutter actuator. Operation of the cutter is delayed by a staple driver actuator until
18 the staple has completely penetrated the stack of paper.

19 Other objectives, advantages and novel features of the invention will
20 become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in
21 conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

22 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

23 Fig. 1 is a side plan view in partial section of a stapler with an apparatus
24 in accordance with the present invention;

1 Fig. 2 is an enlarged bottom plan view of a cutter in the apparatus in the
2 stapler in Fig. 1;

3 Fig. 3 is an operational, side plan view in partial section of the stapler in
4 Fig. 1 when a stack of paper is stapled;

5 Fig. 4 is an operational, side plan view in partial section of the stapler in
6 Fig. 3 when the staple arms are bent;

7 Fig. 5 is an enlarged operational bottom plan view of the cutter in Fig. 2
8 when the lever is pressed to bend the staple arms;

9 Fig. 6 is an enlarged operational front plan view in partial section of the
10 cutter in the stapler Fig. 1 after a staple has been forced through the stack of
11 paper;

12 Fig. 7 is an enlarged operational front plan view in partial section of the
13 cutter of the staple in Fig. 6 after the legs of the staple has been cut and bent to
14 the stack of paper together; and

15 Fig. 8 is a perspective view of a bending template of the cutter in Fig. 5.

16 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

17 With reference to Figs. 1 and 2, an apparatus for stapling stacks of paper
18 with different thicknesses in accordance with the present invention is mounted in
19 a conventional stapler (20). The stapler (20) comprises a base (21), a stapling
20 mechanism (22), a mounting bracket (23) and a lever (24).

21 The base (21) is hollow and has a top (not numbered), a cavity (not
22 numbered) and a staple opening (211). The staple opening (211) is defined
23 through the top and communicates with the cavity.

24 The mounting bracket (23) is substantially U-shaped, is attached to the

1 top of the base (21) and has a magazine pivot point (B) and a lever pivot point
2 (A). The lever pivot point (A) is formed above the magazine pivot point (B).

3 The stapling mechanism (22) is attached pivotally to the mounting
4 bracket (23) at the magazine pivot joint (B) and comprises a magazine assembly
5 (221), a staple driver guide (222), a staple driver (223) and a staple driver
6 actuator (243).

7 The magazine assembly (221) is conventional and comprises a magazine
8 (224) to hold staples (not shown). The magazine (224) has a front end (not
9 numbered) and a rear end (not numbered). The rear end is pivotally attached to
10 the mounting bracket (23) at the magazine pivot joint (B).

11 The staple driver guide (222) connects to the staple driver (223) that is
12 slidably mounted in the magazine (224) at the front end. The staple driver guide
13 (222) has an outer end (not numbered) and a driving pin (225). The driving pin
14 (225) is mounted transversally through the outer end.

15 The lever (24) is attached pivotally to the mounting bracket (23) at the
16 lever pivot joint (A) and has a distal end (not numbered) and a proximal end (not
17 numbered). The staple driver actuator (243) is mounted on the lever (24) over the
18 staple driver guide (222) and has two rigid wings (not numbered) and two L-
19 shaped slots (244). The rigid wings extend down from the lever (24). The L-
20 shaped slots (244) respectively have a horizontal leg (not numbered) and a
21 tangential leg (not numbered) and are transversely aligned and are formed
22 respectively in the wings to slidably hold and drive the driving pin (225) in the
23 staple driver guide (222).

24 The apparatus for stapling stacks of paper with different thicknesses

1 comprises an inner base (25), a cutter actuator (not numbered), a cutter (26), a
2 sliding bracket (27) and a cutting anvil (28).

3 The inner base (25) is mounted in the cavity in the base (21) and has a
4 top (not numbered). The cutter actuator is mounted or integrally formed on the
5 proximal end of the lever (24) and comprises two parallel wings (241) and an
6 actuating pin (242). The parallel wings (241) are attached to or formed integrally
7 on the proximal end of the lever (24) and extend into the base (21) and the inner
8 base (25). The actuating pin (242) is attached transversally between the parallel
9 wings (241).

10 The cutter (26) is mounted in the cavity in the base (21) between the base
11 (21) and the inner base (25) and comprises two articulated arms (261) and two
12 bending templates (29). Each of the articulated arms (261) has a distal end (not
13 numbered) and a proximal end (not numbered) and comprises a pivoting arm
14 (262) and a movable arm (263) that are pivotally joined together. The proximal
15 ends are pivotally attached to the top of the inner base (25) and between the base
16 (21) and the inner base (25) adjacent to the staple opening (211).

17 The sliding bracket (27) is slidably mounted on the top of the inner base
18 (25) and comprises a sliding base (271), a vertical wing (272) and an actuating
19 slot (273). The sliding base (271) is slidably mounted on the top of the inner base
20 (25) between the inner base (25) and the base (10) and has a tongue (not
21 numbered) extending toward and pivotally connected to the distal ends of the
22 articulated arms (261). The vertical wing (272) is symmetrically formed on and
23 extends up from the sliding base (271). The actuating slot (273) is formed in the
24 vertical wing (272) and extends up from the sliding base (271).

1 When the distal end of the lever (24) is pressed down, the driving pin
2 (225) slides into the tangential legs in the L-shaped slots (244) in the staple
3 driver actuator (243). As the driving pin (225) slides into the tangential legs, the
4 actuating pin (242) in the cutter actuator is pivoted around the lever pivot joint
5 (A) and engages the actuating slot (273). As the driving pin (225) slides further
6 into the tangential legs of the L-shaped slots (244), the circular motion of the
7 actuating pin (242) pushes the actuating bracket (27) away from the articulated
8 arms (261). As the distal ends of the articulated arms (261) are drawn away from
9 the proximal ends of the articulated arms (261), the articulated arms (261) are
10 drawn together.

11 The cutting anvil (28) is mounted on the top of the inner base (25)
12 underneath the staple opening (211) and has a top (not numbered) and two
13 opposite side cutting edges (281).

14 The bending templates (29) are mounted respectively on the pivoting
15 arms (262) of the articulated arms (261) and are aligned respectively with the
16 side cutting edges (281) of the cutting anvil (28). With further reference to Fig. 8,
17 each of the bending templates (29) has a top (not numbered), a bottom protrusion
18 (291), a top protrusion (292), an inside face (not numbered) and a bending slot
19 (293). The bottom protrusion (291) has a bottom (not numbered). The top
20 protrusion (292) is formed on the top and has a top surface (not numbered). The
21 bottoms of the bottom protrusions (291) are level with the top of the cutting anvil
22 (28) so the bottom protrusions (291) in co-operation with the side cutting edges
23 (281) shear off excess length from the legs of the staple protruding through a
24 stack of paper when the articulated arms (261) move together. The bending slot

1 (293) is defined vertically in the inside face of the top and the bottom protrusions
2 (292, 291) and in the top surface of the top protrusion (292). The bending slot
3 (293) in the top surface of the top protrusion (292) may be formed at an acute
4 angle relative to the inside face so bent legs of a staple will angle away from each
5 other.

6 With reference to Figs. 1 to 6, the apparatus for stapling stacks of paper
7 with different thicknesses operates with a conventional stapler (20) will staple a
8 stack of paper (50) of virtually any thickness with a U-shaped staple (51). The
9 staple (51) has two pointed legs (not numbered) and a transverse top (not
10 numbered) between the pointed legs. The pointed legs are long enough to
11 penetrate and clamp any stack of paper (50). To operate the apparatus, the distal
12 end of the lever (24) of the stapler (20) is pressed down. The horizontal legs of
13 the L-shaped slots (244) in the staple driver actuator (243) press the driving pin
14 (225), the staple driver guide (222) and the staple driver (223) down until the
15 staple driver (223) abuts the staples (not shown) in the magazine (224). The
16 stapling mechanism (22) pivots around the magazine pivot point (B) until the
17 stapling mechanism (22) abuts the stack of paper (50). Continuing to press the
18 lever (24) will force a staple (51) through the stack of paper (50) until the
19 transverse top of the staple (51) abuts the stack of paper (50).

20 With reference to Figs. 4, 5 and 7, when the transverse top of the staple
21 (51) abutting the top of the stack of paper (50), the pointed legs of the staple (51)
22 extend into the base (21) through the staple opening (211). When the transverse
23 top of the staple (51) abuts the stack of paper (50), the driving pin (225) moves
24 out of the horizontal legs into the tangential legs of the L-shaped slot (244). As

1 the driving pin (225) moves further into the tangential legs of the L-shaped slots
2 (244), the actuating pin (242) of the cutter actuator moves toward and engages
3 the actuating slot (273) of the sliding bracket (27). Continuing to press the distal
4 end of the lever (24) causes the actuating pin (242) to draw the sliding bracket
5 (27) out and the articulated arms (261) of the cutter (26) together. The pointed
6 legs of the staple (51) extending through the stack of paper (50) are sheared off to
7 the right length respectively between the side cutting edges (281) of the cutting
8 anvil (28) and the bending templates (29). Meanwhile, the actuating pin (242)
9 slides into the actuating slot (273) in the sliding bracket (27) because of its
10 circular motion caused by the pivoted lever (24).

11 Consequently, the apparatus allows a stapler (20) to smoothly staple a
12 stack of paper (50) of any thickness without changing the size of the staple (51)
13 in the stapler (20). The long pointed legs of the staples (51) will be cut to a
14 correct length depending on the thickness of the stack of paper (50). The pointed
15 legs extending beyond the stack of paper (50) are bent to fasten the sheet stack
16 (50) together. The stapler (20) with the apparatus in accordance with the present
17 invention can be used to staple a stack of paper (50) of any thickness. The
18 apparatus makes multiple staplers (20) unnecessary. Therefore, money is saved.

19 Even though numerous characteristics and advantages of the present
20 invention have been set forth in the foregoing description, together with details
21 of the structure and function of the invention, the disclosure is illustrative only,
22 and changes may be made in detail, especially in matters of shape, size, and
23 arrangement of parts within the scope of the appended claims.